

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Vivier

Serial No.: TBA

Examiner: TBA

Filed : August 4, 2003

Group Art Unit: TBA

For : DOCUMENTING REPERTOIRES OF
NKR IMMUNORECEPTORS AND/OR
OF ACTIVATORY OR NON-INHIBITORY
IMMUNORECEPTOR COUNTERPARTS
OF NKR IMMUNORECEPTORS

Express Mail No:EV343637019US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Rule 115 of the Rules of Practice, please consider the following amendments and remarks. Applicant submits concurrently herewith an (i) Application Transmittal in connection with the filing of a United States Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b).

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-23, without prejudice.

Please insert the following new claims:

24. (New) An *in vitro* method for identifying the repertoire of NKR inhibitory immunoreceptors within a subject, these immunoreceptors being designated hereinafter target receptors, comprising:

- (i) contacting a nucleic acid sample derived from said subject with at least one pair of oligonucleotides, one being designated a 3' oligonucleotide and the other a 5' oligonucleotide, wherein the 3' and 5' oligonucleotides hybridize in a buffer comprising 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.4; 50 mM KCl; 2.5 mM MgCl₂ at a temperature of between 50°C and 65°C, to a nucleic acid encoding a target receptor, but do not hybridize, under the same hybridization conditions, with a NKR activatory immunoreceptor counterpart and;
- (ii) detecting hybridization between the nucleic acid encoding the NKR inhibitory immunoreceptor and the 3' and 5' oligonucleotide pair(s),

wherein detection of hybridization between the nucleic acid encoding the NKR inhibitory immunoreceptor and the 3' and 5' oligonucleotide pair(s) identifies the repertoire of NKR inhibitory receptors.

25. (New) An *in vitro* method for identifying the repertoire of NKR activatory immunoreceptors within a subject, these immunoreceptors being designated hereinafter target receptors, comprising: